Resources for the ASEAN Economic Community:

Lessons Learned from the Global Organic Market Access (GOMA) Project

UNFSS Briefing, Clark Freeport, Philippines 24-25 October 2013
Overview of Presentation

• Situation of Organic Agriculture in East, South-East & South Asia

• Situation of Organic Agriculture in ASEAN Member States

• Formation of GOMA Asia

• Mapping out Recognition for Regional Organic Trade

• Coincidence with ASEAN Economic Community Formation

• Conclusions of GOMA Asia
Situation of Organic Agriculture in Asia

- Certified organic land nearing 4 million hectares

- Asia Market data not readily available, but China reports $US 5 billion sales in 2012, expected to reach $US 8 billion by 2015

- Organic markets are opening and growing in large cities

- Some countries have growing local organic sales facilitated by Participatory Guarantee Systems, an alternative to third party certification.

- 9 countries have fully implemented organic regulations
Situation of Organic Agriculture in ASEAN Member States

• Some countries are experiencing high growth rates for organic farming

• In Philippines, organically farmed hectares almost doubled between 2008 and 2011 (from 17,000 to 34,000 Ha)

• Locally based private certification is established in
  – Indonesia
  – Philippines
  – Thailand
  – Cambodia
  – Malaysia

• Government-based certification is established in
  – Lao
  – Malaysia
  – Thailand
Situation of Organic Agriculture in ASEAN Member States

- 4 countries have issued organic labeling regulations or voluntary programs
  - Indonesia
  - Malaysia
  - Philippines
  - Thailand

- 5 countries have national standards
  - Indonesia
  - Malaysia
  - Philippines
  - Thailand
  - Lao (also has a government certification program)
  - Vietnam (in preparation)
Situation of Organic Agriculture in ASEAN Member States

• Organic market “hot spots”
  – Bangkok
  – Singapore
  – Kuala Lumpur (Klang Valley)
  – Jakarta
Formation of GOMA-Asia

As partners, FAO, IFOAM and UNCTAD have been addressing organic regulations and trade barriers since 2002.
Formation of GOMA-Asia

- International Task Force on Harmonization and Equivalence in Organic Agriculture (ITF), 2002-2008
  - Tool for Equivalence of Organic Standards  EquiTool
  - Tool for Equivalence of Organic Certification  IROCB
Formation of GOMA Asia

- Global Organic Market Access (GOMA) 2009-2012
  - Project focused on assisting countries and regions to implement ITF Tools and recommendations
  - GOMA also further developed the EquiTool to include a practical instrument for comparing standards to a benchmark of Common Objectives and Requirements for Organic Standards (COROS)
Formation of GOMA Asia

• In 2010 GOMA organized an Asia workshop on organic regulations and trade
  • 35 participants from public and private sector
  • WS decided to establish a GOMA Asia Working Group to identify a way to establish regional recognition of organic standards and conformity assessment
Working Group Members
public/private sector

Regulating Countries
China (CNCA)
Thailand (ACFS)*
India (APEDA)
Philippines (BAFPS – Ministry of Agriculture)*
Indonesia (Ministry of Agriculture)*
Malaysia (Ministry of Agriculture)*

Non Regulating Countries/Territories
Bhutan
Laos*
Cambodia*
Vietnam*
Sri Lanka
Hong Kong, China (SAR)
Mapping Framework for Cooperation

- Standards
- Certification Performance Requirements
- Conformity Assessment
- Control of Certification
- Cooperation on certification and accreditation

Government Recognition

Flags of various countries are shown around the circle, indicating international cooperation.
Mapping Recognition for Organic Labeling & Trade

- GOMA ASIA developed AROS (Asia Regional Organic Standard) a harmonized regional organic standard for crop production and wild collection.
Inclusive Way Forward
Acceptance of equally reliable systems

- **Recognition of Certification**
  - Where national standards and supervision systems are set up

- **Systems Recognition**
  - Where national standards and supervision systems are not set up

Countries mentioned:
- Thailand
- Malaysia
- Indonesia
- Philippines
- India
- China
- South Korea
- Japan
- Taiwan
- Others in the region
Mapping Recognition for Organic Labeling & Trade

By 2012:

• almost all WG participants from ASEAN Member States

• WG discussed AEC formation, opportunities for integration of GOMA Asia results.

• Last WG meeting:
  - limited to governments from ASEAN countries
  - included summation of GOMA Asia result, and
  - a presentation from ASEAN on AEC
Inclusive Way Forward
Acceptance of equally reliable systems

ASEAN Organic Sector MRA

EU
North America
China
Japan
South Korea
India
Taiwan
Others

Laos
Vietnam
Cambodia
Brunei
Myanmar
Singapore
Thailand
Philippines
Indonesia
Malaysia

Others
**Recommendation:**
Recognition of certification for imports may be based on the following:

(i) MRA listed CABs working in non-member states, incl use of sub-contracted inspection.

(ii) Equivalent supervision by a non-member state - **peer review by a member state**.

(iii) Accreditation by an **accreditation body** compliant to ISO 117011 for the scope of organic certification through a **recognised peer or external review process** and the **applicable standard is equivalent to the COROS and meets the AROS**.

Application for (ii) and (iii) to be made by a member state to Joint Com. for decision.

Approved CABs and programmes to be listed on designated website(s).

**Future option:** Direct supervision/accreditation of CABs in non-member states.
ASEAN Organic MRA operating scenario

**Joint Committee:** Steering (Technical)
- Verification [Peer Review]
- Listing; Suspension; Removal

**Interested Member states**

**Contact Point**
- Updates & Info Exchange
- Complaints

**Designating Body**
- Monitoring of CABs
- Identification of CABs

**Contact Point**
- Updates & Info Exchange
- Complaints

**Rotating Chair**
Annual meet
Cost sharing

**ASEAN Secretariat**

**Peer Review (3-4 years)**
Ad-hoc visit (request )
  a. ISO 17011 - Accreditation
  b. IROCB – Certification

**Recognition of external certification**

**List of CABs**

**Certificate to state ‘certified to AROS equivalent’**

**Use of ASEAN logo through any listed CAB**

**Use of National logo through CAB of importing country**

**Listing of all MRA National logos & accepted non MRA certification logos**

**List of CABs**

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Executive Summary of GOMA ASIA

- It is now for countries to take up the results on their agendas, especially in the context of regional economic integration such as in ASEAN,

- Development of AROS, and the GOMA Asia mutual recognition model are consistent with the ASEAN Framework Agreement for Mutual Recognition Agreements.

- The GOMA Asia results could facilitate ASEAN to integrate organic standards and conformity assessment in a short time period, as well as provide a blueprint for the completion of other ASEAN harmonization programs such as ASEAN GAP.
Advancing Interoperability of Sustainability Standards Beyond 2013

- UNFSS is continuing the GOMA objectives and agenda in the “Organic Track” of the UNFSS Working Group on enhancing Interoperability of VSS.

- UNFSS has also established a track in this working group to develop efficiencies for dual certification of operators to organic and GlobalGAP standards and criteria. (t “Organic-GAP Track”).

- UNFSS would welcome the establishment of an ASEAN-UNFSS platform to work on Mutual Recognition and Interoperability re: Organic and GAP certification systems in line with the ASEAN Economic Community agenda.
THANK YOU!

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